



Emerging Leaders AZ is a resource for early career arts and culture administrators looking to expand their professional network and improve their job-related skills.

Emerging Leaders are: Passionate in the service of their organizations; energized by the process of learning their business and craft; supportive of their peers; searching for collaboration, cooperation and education opportunities; taking the lead to make Arizona's arts and culture organizations inclusive, innovative and well-respected.

History of the Emerging Leaders Initiative

In 1999, Americans for the Arts established the Emerging Leaders Task Force to develop and implement a series of programs that would meet the needs of emerging arts leaders. Emerging leaders were discouraged by the lack of professional development opportunities available to them and the task force stepped in to engage emerging leaders and help their organizations grow with both new and established leadership. The Task Force was later renamed the Emerging Leaders Council, and is now an elected body comprising working professionals from across the country.

Americans for the Arts is working to identify and cultivate the next generation of arts leaders in America. To encourage and facilitate the participation of this next generation, we have provided discounts for emerging leaders to attend our annual convention, surveyed these young professionals, and convened them for special meetings. This group is an ideal way for new leaders to share their interests with others as they continue to develop skills and firm their commitment to the arts. Americans for the Arts targets professionals who are new to the field, generally less than five years, but invites people from every age range and demographic group to participate. The only requirement is that emerging leaders have the desire to enhance their leadership capacity and the drive to develop innovative, effective, and responsible management practices.

Emerging Leaders in Arizona

In 2004, Arizona Citizens for the Arts convened young arts leaders in Phoenix to discuss their wants and needs much like the 1999 American for the Arts Task Force.

Since then, the Emerging Leaders, initiative has moved forward in Arizona. Emerging Leaders AZ hosts several networking opportunities including the annual Creative Conversation, in partnership with Arizona Citizens for the Arts. Creative Conversations is a program through Americans for the Arts that brings together the field leaders to discuss current issues. In 2006, the Southwest Arts Conference dedicated an entire session and a morning-peer-group-meeting for Emerging Leaders.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is currently working to move the Emerging Leaders initiative forward in Arizona. An advisory council was formed to help the Commission provide support and education opportunities to Arizona's emerging arts and culture administrators.

Resources for Emerging Leaders...

Arizona Commission on the Arts

www.azarts.gov/emergingleaders

Arizona Citizens for the Arts

www.azcitizensforthearts.org

Americans for the Arts

www.americansforthearts.org/emergingleaders

For more information, please contact 602.229.8229 or emergingleaders@azarts.gov or visit www.azarts.gov/emergingleaders.